

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/810,567

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging their claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants submit with this Amendment a replacement sheet for Fig. 1b with complete labels to the second and fourth blocks. These labels are in the priority document. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by USP 6,043,765 to Twardowski. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Twardowski in view of USP 6,734,812 to Lin. Claims 3-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to contain all limitations of claim 3, except for the following three:

The first limitation that is included in the combination of the originally filed claims 1 and 3 but not in the amended claim 1 is the word “only” in the third line from the end of claim 3. This amendment is supported by the description of the application as filed on the last paragraph of page 8, stating that in a preferred embodiment of the inventions, “additional codeword sequences may be kept for further processing”. The fact that “only one codeword sequence” or “additional codeword sequences” are kept at each iteration is supported by the description so that

Attorney Docket No.: Q80429
PATENT APPLICATION

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attachment: Replacement Sheet for Fig. 1b.

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U.S. Application No.: 10/810,567

the term “only” can be removed from amended claim 1 without extending over the content of the application as filed.

The second limitation that is included in the combination of the originally filed claims 1 and 3 but not in the amended claim 1 is the following language in lines 11-12 of claim 3: said property intrinsic to said predefined type of data consisting in. The Examiner has acknowledged that the prior art does not teach or suggest this feature.

Applicants also replaced the phrase “consisting in” in the third line of the originally filed claim 1 with the word “comprising”.

Amendments to claim 6 can be directly deduced from the description as filed. Page 12, lines 21-23 mentions that “parameter run represents the number of pixels encoded in a codeword”; page 12, line 27 discloses the equation; and page 13, lines 16 to 19 discloses that “each partial codeword sequence is checked against this property and partial codeword sequences which do not fulfill this property are discarded.”

Amendments to claim 7 can be directly deduced from the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 of the specification (for the meaning of the field “last”) and the third full paragraph of page 13 (for the combination of this property with the property of new claim 1). The applicant has corrected the reference to the “number of pixels per data block” to “the number of bit per data block”. It will be clear for a person skilled in the art that the comparison of the number of pixels with a number of bits was an error and that only corresponding quantities can be compared (i.e., number of bits in a partial decoded sequences with number of bits in a data block).

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Amended claim 9 is an apparatus claim formulated with apparatus terms corresponding to method steps of amended claim 1.

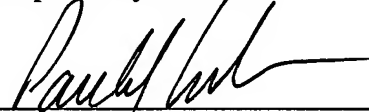
No new matter has been introduced.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 4-8, and claim 9 are patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 25, 2005

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